United Nations A/66/575

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 November 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 162
Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Revised budget for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2011/12[a]	$482,460,550
Revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for 2011/12[b]	$137,532,000
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2011/12	$137,532,000

[a and b] For the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 (see paras. 6 and 7 below).

11-60656 (E) 281111

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. **The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposed revised estimates for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (see A/66/519). The Committee has made recommendations and observations, where appropriate, in the paragraphs below.**

2. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the financing of UNMIS are listed at the end of the present report.

II. Revised budget for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

A. Mandate and planned results

3. The mandate of UNMIS was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1590 (2005) and was further extended by the Council in a number of subsequent resolutions. The Council decided to extend until 9 July 2011 the mandate of UNMIS in its resolution 1978 (2011). In its resolution 1997 (2011) of 11 July 2011, the Council decided to withdraw UNMIS effective 11 July 2011, and called upon the Secretary-General to complete withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian UNMIS personnel, other than those required for the Mission's liquidation, by 31 August 2011. In the same resolution, the Council also requested that the Secretary-General transfer appropriate staff, equipment, supplies and other assets from UNMIS to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

4. The planning assumptions and the withdrawal schedule are explained in paragraphs 8 to 13 of the Secretary-General's report on the revised budget for the Mission for 2011/12 (A/66/519). The main objective of UNMIS for the period from 11 July to 31 December 2011 is the logistical, administrative and security support to the withdrawal and administrative liquidation of the Mission by 31 December 2011. During this period, the Mission is being headed by the former Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the level of the Assistant Secretary-General, who is supported by a public information team, a legal team and the former Deputy Force Commander, who oversees the management and drawdown of troops. The Mission's withdrawal and liquidation plan includes: (a) conclusion of substantive programmes; (b) repatriation or transfer of military personnel and contingent-owned equipment; (c) finalization, in consultation with Headquarters, of the assets disposal plan; (d) implementation of administrative actions in support of staff repatriation, transfer or separation; (e) restoration to their original condition and handover of premises; and (f) completion of administrative, procurement, personnel and financial actions, and residual liquidation tasks.

B. Resource requirements

5. The Advisory Committee recalls that, at the time of its consideration of the proposed budget for UNMIS for 2011/12, taking into account the decision of the Security Council in its resolution 1978 (2011), it had recommended that the General Assembly appropriate resources required for the maintenance of UNMIS for the six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2011, and that the Secretary-General be requested to submit a revised budget proposal for the Mission (A/65/743/Add.10, para. 33).

6. The Advisory Committee also recalls that the General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 65/257 B, decided to appropriate to the Special Account for UNMIS the amount of $482,460,550 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011. In the same resolution, in paragraph 14, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to draw upon the resources approved for UNMIS in entering into commitments for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 for UNISFA and any further missions established by the Security Council before 31 December 2011. The initial commitment authorities[1] and the current revised allocations[2] for UNMIS, UNMISS and UNISFA from the amount of $482,460,550 assessed by the Assembly in resolution 65/257 B are provided in paragraph 5 of the revised budget proposed by the Secretary-General (A/66/519).

7. The proposed revised estimates for UNMIS for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 amount to $137,532,000. The Secretary-General indicates that the revised resource requirements have been linked to the Mission's objective to accomplish effective and efficient withdrawal and administrative liquidation of the Mission by 31 December 2011 (A/66/519, para. 7). In addition, the revised estimates also include provisions for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan from 1 August to 31 December 2011 (see paras. 19 to 22 below). **The Advisory Committee expects that every effort will be made to adhere to the planned withdrawal and liquidation schedule in order to avoid cost escalations.**

Withdrawal, transfer and separation of personnel

8. The planned monthly withdrawal schedule of UNMIS military and civilian personnel is provided in the table, Human resources, in the summary of the Secretary-General's report on the revised budget of the Mission (A/66/519). The Advisory Committee enquired about the latest progress in the withdrawal process, as compared with the schedule, and the total number of personnel transferred to UNMISS and UNISFA. The Committee was provided with the tables below.

[1] UNMIS ($111,092,800), UNMISS ($277,915,150) and UNISFA ($93,452,600).

[2] UNMIS ($137,532,000), UNMISS ($277,915,150) and UNISFA ($67,013,400).

Table 1
UNMIS liquidation team

UNMIS liquidation team	*As at 3 November 2011*
International staff	66
United Nations Volunteers	4
Individual contractors[a]	271
Staff officers	1
Total	**342**

[a] Former national staff of UNMIS supporting the administrative liquidation. The arrangement was made as an administrative procedure for those former national staff whose contracts had expired or terminated as a result of the administrative liquidation of the Mission.

Table 2
Transfer of UNMIS personnel to UNMISS and UNISFA

UNMIS	*UNMISS*	*UNISFA*	*Subtotal*
Military observers	203	38	241
Military contingents	5 007	—	5 007
United Nations police	378	—	378
Civilian personnel (international)	733	20	753
United Nations Volunteers (international and national)	238	—	238
Total			**6 617**

9. The Advisory Committee also enquired about the staff costs in relation to separation and termination indemnities subsequent to the withdrawal and liquidation of the Mission. The Committee was informed that the estimates for the termination of 62 international staff would amount to $4,175,000, including: (a) termination indemnities and payment for accrued leave ($3,400,000, based on an average of five years of service and of 30 days of accrued leave); (b) relocation grants ($620,000); and (c) repatriation ($155,000, at an estimated cost of $2,500 per ticket). The Committee was also informed that for the termination of 1,597 national staff, the estimated amount of $7,970,674 would cover: (a) termination indemnities of three-months' pay ($5,592,083); and (b) payment for accrued leave ($2,378,591).

10. In addition, the Advisory Committee enquired as to what support UNMIS received in its liquidation process from other missions in the region and the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda. The Committee was informed that UNMISS had and would continue to support UNMIS with respect to flight planning and air support, movement control for repatriation of some military contingents, processing of international payments and payroll. The Committee was also informed that the Regional Service Centre, through the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre of the Department of Field Support, provided support in coordinating aircraft required for the repatriation of some of the Mission's military contingents.

Transfer, donation and disposal of assets

11. With respect to assets under ground transportation, upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that: UNMIS vehicles had been transferred to UNMISS (2,250 or 78 per cent), UNISFA (205 or 7 per cent), UNSMIL (73 or 3 per cent) and other missions (32 or 1 per cent); 4 per cent would be donated; and the rest would be disposed of in accordance with standard procedures. The Committee notes a provision in the amount of $1,671,900 in the revised budget under ground transportation for rental of vehicles required for the transfer and repatriation of staff (A/66/519, para. 38). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the resources were required for: (a) the rental of vehicles for dispatch service for international staff, which started in 2010 and continued until 31 October 2011; and (b) rental of buses to transport some of the military contingents to Khartoum for onward repatriation by air.

12. As for assets under air and naval transportation, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that all former UNMIS aircraft, apart from those used during the administrative liquidation period, had been repositioned within UNMISS and UNISFA. In addition, the naval contingent (comprising 9 boats and 1 marine vessel) had been deployed to UNMISS, although it would be repatriated by 1 December 2011 as it was no longer operationally required by that Mission.

13. The Advisory Committee notes the proposed disposal of an estimated 38,279 items of non-expendable assets with an estimated depreciated value of $129.9 million, as shown under administrative liquidation in the report on the revised budget (A/66/519, p. 8). The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that of the total of 38,279 items of non-expendable assets, an estimated 87 per cent were being transferred to other field missions (71 per cent to UNMISS, 15 per cent to UNISFA, 1 per cent to UNSMIL and other missions) and 10 per cent were marked for write-off. The remaining 3 per cent, including prefabricated units and light vehicles, at an estimated value of $6.4 million, were proposed for donation to the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan.

14. Regarding the handover of El Obeid Logistics Base (A/66/519, p. 7), the Advisory Committee enquired as to potential locations for a new base and the possibility of the reuse of the infrastructure and other assets of the base. The Committee was informed that Kadugli was being considered as the support base for UNISFA. The Committee was also informed that, in June 2011, there were 4,711 non-expendable items at a purchase value of $44,459,510 at the El Obeid Logistics Base. The dismantling of the base was still ongoing. Three large hangars, under consideration for donation, were the only structures left standing at the base. The Committee was further informed that the total donation under consideration to the Government of the Sudan would amount to an estimated purchase value of $1.2 million (depreciated value of $0.5 million).

15. In addition, the Advisory Committee was informed of the categories and related percentage of the total assets to be transferred from UNMIS to other field operations: communications (16 per cent); information technology (25 per cent); engineering (32 per cent); supply (17 per cent); and transport (10 per cent). It was indicated to the Committee that these represented standard items necessary for the operational requirements of a mission. It was further indicated that the information regarding transfer, donation and disposal of assets was provisional and that a report on the final disposition of assets would be submitted to the General Assembly in

accordance with regulation 5.14 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

16. **The Advisory Committee requests that, in its liquidation process, UNMIS continue to apply lessons learned from the closed peacekeeping operations, with particular attention being paid to the disposal of assets in order to mitigate risks. The Committee expects that every effort is being undertaken by the Mission to ensure an effective and efficient liquidation process.**

Mine action

17. A provision of $1,447,100 is made for the withdrawal and liquidation of the mine detection and mine-clearing services, including: (a) asset disposal or redistribution; (b) file administration; (c) handover of office facilities; and (d) payment of outstanding invoices, closure of accounts and preparation of final reports. The Advisory Committee was informed that the provision represented a decrease of $41,842,700, or 96.7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2010/11. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that demining operations would continue to be provided through UNMISS in South Sudan, and UNISFA and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in the Sudan. The assets of the Mine Action Office in Khartoum would be utilized to support the mine action programmes of the three Missions, as well as to support the National Mine Action Centre of the Sudan. **Given the importance of the mine detection and mine-clearing services to the local population, the Advisory Committee trusts that mine action activities will continue to be carried out by UNMISS, UNISFA and UNAMID.**

Death and disability claims

18. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 September 2011, UNMIS had seven pending claims for death and disability compensation. Upon enquiry, the Committee was further informed that two claims had since been processed. The Committee notes that after the closure of UNMIS, all financial and administrative aspects of the administrative liquidation will become the responsibility of the Field Budget and Finance Division of the Department of Field Support, which will follow up with all outstanding claims. **The Advisory Committee expects that the pending claims will be settled expeditiously.**

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan

19. In his letter to the President of the Security Council dated 27 July 2011 (S/2011/474), the Secretary-General notified the Council of his intention to appoint his Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, who would assist the parties in reaching a negotiated settlement to residual Comprehensive Peace Agreement and post-secession issues. On 29 July 2011, the Secretary-General was informed that the Security Council took note of his decision (S/2011/475). It is indicated in the revised budget that the Special Envoy, at the Under-Secretary-General level, is supported in his work by a Senior Adviser (D-1) and two Political Affairs Officers (P-4) based in Addis Ababa. The Special Envoy is based in New York and will travel frequently to the Sudan and to Addis Ababa and other capitals in the region, as required (A/66/519, paras. 19 to 21).

20. The proposed revised budget includes provisions for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2011. The Advisory Committee, having enquired as to the reason for such an inclusion, was informed that the Office of the Special Envoy was established to offer the good offices of the Secretary-General in engaging the parties in the Sudan and South Sudan in reaching an agreement on outstanding issues related to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In addition, the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/257 B, authorized the Secretary-General to draw upon the resources approved for UNMIS in entering into commitments for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 for UNISFA and any further missions established by the Security Council before 31 December 2011 in support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

21. The Advisory Committee also enquired as to why the Special Envoy was based in New York, away from his staff in Addis Ababa. The Committee was informed that the fact that the team supporting the Special Envoy was located in Addis Ababa contributed to neutrality of the Office and facilitated the work of the team with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. The Committee was also informed that an important requirement for the progress in the post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement negotiations was to continue building an international consensus on the best way forward for the peace process and the need to coordinate political engagement of the relevant actors of the United Nations. It was therefore decided by the Secretary-General that New York was a suitable location for the Special Envoy while he continued to travel to the region on a regular basis.

22. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy amounted to $914,700, including general temporary assistance ($456,400), official travel ($391,800), office equipment ($62,900) and rental of premises ($3,600). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed provisions for the Office of the Special Envoy.**

III. Conclusion

23. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNMIS for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 is contained in paragraph 47 of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for UNMIS (A/66/519). **Taking into account its comments above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Secretary-General.**

Documentation

- Revised budget for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/66/519)
- Special report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan (S/2011/314)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (A/65/743/Add.10)
- General Assembly resolution 65/257 B on the financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan
- Security Council resolutions 1590 (2005), 1978 (2011) and 1997 (2011)